



May 6, 2011

Hasan Ikhata, Executive Director
Plans and Programs Technical Advisory Committee
Southern California Association of Governments
818 W. Seventh Street, 12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Mr. Ikhata and Members of the P&P TAC:

SCAG recently proposed an initial set of performance metrics to be used in analyzing potential scenarios considered in the Regional Transportation Planning/ Sustainable Communities Strategies planning process. A statewide group of public health advocates has developed a set of performance metrics for use in the RTP/SCS processes across the state in order to infuse a robust health and equity perspective, which have not been fully considered in land use and transportation planning in the past. Attached you will find our health and equity analysis of as well as recommendations for SCAG's set of metrics.

We thank SCAG and the P&P TAC for your leadership and for considering the suggestions of public health and equity professionals and advocates in the development of performance measures.

High levels of chronic disease, including diabetes, and asthma, are straining public and private resources and undermining quality of life across all regions of California. Evidence clearly demonstrates that environmental and behavioral factors have the greatest impact on health outcomes. One of most important opportunities for creating environments that support health is through careful transportation and land-use planning. As described in the attached analysis, transportation systems impact health in many ways, for example through impacts on injuries and fatalities, environmental quality (e.g., air quality and noise), physical activity, and economic opportunity. These impacts are typically not distributed evenly across all populations, with lower income populations and communities of color often facing worse impacts for a variety of reasons. Understanding the causes of these differences is an important step toward addressing them. For this reason, we believe that equity (defined here to mean the absence of systematic disparities in health, or in the major social determinants of health, between groups

with different levels of underlying social advantage/disadvantage) impacts be understood in addition to health impacts.

We recommend that SCAG could improve health and equity outcomes in its Sustainable Communities Strategy planning process by:

1. Modifying SCAG's proposed performance measures as described in the attached document.
2. Including ongoing input from a health perspective in the SCS process by adding one or more public health representatives to SCAG's Planning and Programs Technical Advisory Committee (PPTAC).
3. Conducting a more comprehensive equity analysis about each of the proposed performance measures.
4. Setting health- and equity-promoting targets for some of the metrics. Our coalition and/or a public health representative on the PPTAC can offer assistance with this.
5. Developing a robust public participation process that centers around a *range* of potential scenarios. The alternative scenarios would range from a baseline scenario to one proposing ambitious targets, given Southern California's status as having some of the dirtiest air in the nation. Including more people in the dialogue is one of the best ways to make sure all perspectives are heard and included.

The SCAG SCS process is poised to leave an indelible mark on the health, economy, and sustainability of the region. The only way that the opportunity to improve health and safety outcome can be maximized is to include health representatives and input in the process from the outset. As is evidenced by the attached analysis of the draft metrics, health professionals can provide vital input that informs the process, supports the translation of concepts into evidence-based action, and avoids unintended consequences. We look forward to partnering with SCAG into the scenario development phase and beyond to ensure that the SCS process beneficially impacts the health of residents of Southern California, particularly those whose health status is the most vulnerable. To discuss these metrics, please contact Kim Gilhuly at Human Impact Partners at kim@humanimpact.org or Tamanna Rahman at American Lung Association in California at TRahman@alac.org.

Thank you again for this opportunity. We look forward to the discussion on Tuesday, May 10.

Sincerely,

Kathy Magliato, MD
Board of Directors & Volunteer
American Heart Association

Bonnie Holmes-Gen
Senior Policy Director
American Lung Association in California

Robert Vinetz, MD
Co-Chair
Asthma Coalition of Los Angeles County

Natalie K. Kaczur
Executive Director
California Chapter of the American College of Physician Services

Elisa Nicholas, MD, MSPH
Chief Executive Officer
The Children's Clinic, Serving Children and Their Families
Chair, Long Beach Alliance for Children With Asthma

Ruben Cantu
Program Director
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

Rachelle Reyes Wenger, MPA
Director, Public Policy & Community Advocacy
Catholic Healthcare West

Jeremy Cantor, MPH
Program Manager
Healthy Places Coalition;
Prevention Institute

Jonathan Heller, PhD
Executive Director
Human Impact Partners

Ralph J DiLibero, MD
Chair, Air Quality Committee
Los Angeles County Medical Association

Executive Board
Imperial County Medical Association

Ricky Y. Choi, MD, MPH
Chair
National Physicians Alliance-California; Board Member NPA

Ana Carricchi
Director of Policy
Latino Health Access

Marice Ashe, JD, MPH
Executive Director
Public Health Law & Policy

Anne Kelsey Lamb, MPH
Director
Regional Asthma Management and Prevention (RAMP)

Jessica Meaney
California Policy Manager
Safe Routes to School National Partnership

Jim Mangia, MPH
President & CEO
St. John's Well Child and Family Centers

Ibtisam Sirhan, MPH, CHES
President
Southern California Public Health Association

Richard J Jackson, MD, MPH
Professor and Chair, Environmental Health Sciences
UCLA School of Public Health
Former Director, National Center for Environmental Health CDC
Former California State Public Health Officer

Sonal R Patel, MD
Pediatric/Adult Allergy & Immunology
While Memorial Pediatric Medical Group*

Susan Sprau, MD
Past President
CA Chapter of the American College of Physicians*

Karen Jakpor, MD MPH
American Lung Association Volunteer
Riverside

Jeffrey Goldstein, MBA, PhD
Director, UCLA general dentistry*

Dr. Earl Freymiller, MD, DDS
Director, OMS Residency Training Program
UCLA Dentistry*

Gennady Landa, MD, DDS
Los Angeles

Apel Keuroghlian, MD, DDS
Los Angeles

Lee Pham, MD, DDS
Los Angeles

Jim Olsen, DMD, MD
Los Angeles

Amir Khadivi, DDS
Los Angeles

Gil Ivry – DDS
Los Angeles

John G. Miller, MD, FACEP
President, San Pedro and Peninsula Homeowners Coalition
Representative to Tra-Pac Appellant's Group for Physicians for Social Responsibility- Los Angeles Chapter

*For identification purposes only